

Gen. Holmes To Retire as Chief of OAC

In charge of all ammunition plants in the United States since September, 1946, and commanding general of the Ordnance Ammunition Center headquartered in Joliet, Brig. Gen. Joel G. Holmes will retire Aug. 31.



GEN. JOEL G. HOLMES

A native of Forked River, N. J., Gen. Holmes has served in the army for more than 35 years. He has held the key role in ordnance work for six years.

AMONG THE many honors received by Gen. Holmes in his army career was the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire conferred upon him by the King of England. It was presented for his close co-operation with British officers in the supply of ordnance material and control of United Kingdom depots during World War II when Holmes served as a member of the staff of the chief of ordnance in the European theater of Operations.

The general was graduated from West Point as a lieutenant in July, 1917. During World War I, he served for 10 months in France as adjutant in an anti-aircraft battalion. During World War II, he went to England in May, 1943, and subsequently served in the ETO for 28 months.

HIS PROMOTION in February, 1950, to the rank of brigadier general in the ordnance department, one of the few generalship posts in that division, came in recognition of his superior handling of the forerunner of Ordnance Ammunition Center, formerly known as the Office of the Field Director of Ammunition Plants.

When he returned from overseas duty in December, 1945, he was assigned as chief of the Chicago Ordnance division, a post he retained until September, 1946, when he was given the important assignment as head of all ammunition plants in the country.

THE GENERAL will observe his 60th birthday on Aug. 24. Besides the recognition from the British government, Holmes received several other medals for his army service, including the Legion of Merit, the Soldier's medal for gallantry and the Bronze Star for bravery. He was in the Normandy and Northern France campaigns.